

**THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
Of
Celebration Lutheran Church
Of
Mt. Juliet, Inc.**

**3425 North Mt. Juliet Road
Mt. Juliet, Tennessee 37122**

Effective December 2017

Includes Continuing Resolutions, Vision, Mission and Core Values

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The Constitution of Celebration Lutheran Church of Mt. Juliet, Inc.

PREAMBLE

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1. NAME AND INCORPORATION

- C1.01. The name of this congregation shall be Celebration Lutheran Church of Mt. Juliet, Inc.
- C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Celebration Lutheran Church of Mt. Juliet, Inc. congregation is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- 1.03.C1.11 This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

Chapter 2. CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH

- *C2.01. This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- *C2.02. This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
 - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through

them God's spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

- *C2.03. This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- *C2.04. This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.
- *C2.05. This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- *C2.06. This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- *C2.07. This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 3. NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- *C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- *C3.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.
- *C3.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

- *C3.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.

- *C3.05. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.

Chapter 4. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- *C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

- *C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
 - a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service;
 - b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations;
 - c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all;
 - d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs;
 - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world;
 - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

- *C4.03** To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:
- a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered;
 - b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry;
 - c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation;
 - d. Teach the Word of God;
 - e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people;
 - f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;
 - g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
 - h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
 - i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.
- *C4.04.** This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational groups and shall review their actions. Such description shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section on the Congregation Committees.
- *C4.05.** This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.
- *C4.06.** References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God's mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

Chapter 5. POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- *C5.01.** The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.

- *C5.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.
- *C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:
- a. Call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
 - b. Terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
 - c. call a minister of Word and Service;
 - d. *or* terminate the call of a minister of Word and Service in conformity with the applicable policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
 - e. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 16, amendments to the bylaws, as specified in chapter 16, and continuing resolutions, as provided in chapter 18.
 - f. approve the annual budget;
 - g. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
 - g. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
 - h. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
 - i. elect its officers, Congregation Council, boards, and committees, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, and bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
 - j. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.
- *C5.04. This congregation shall choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by the congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chapter 6. CHURCH AFFILIATION

- *C6.01. This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

***C6.02.** This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the Purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.

***C6.03.** This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which:

- a. This congregation agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community;
- b. This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- c. This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the roster of Ministers of Word And Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod; These special circumstances are limited either to calling a candidate approved for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to contracting for pastoral services with an ordained minister of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion.
- d. This congregation agrees to consider ministers of Word and Service for call to other staff positions in the congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- e. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the constitution of the synod.

***C6.04.** Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be terminated as follows:

- a. This congregation takes action to dissolve;
- b. This congregation ceases to exist;
- c. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in C6.05.

***C6.05.** This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

- a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time the congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any.

The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the congregation council. Unless he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.

- b. The secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.
- c. The bishop of the synod and the congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in paragraph a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the synod of the notice as specified in paragraph b. above.
- d. If the congregation, after such consultation, still seeks to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is voting member of the congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- e. A copy of the resolution, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to paragraphs g., h., and i. below. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the congregation has voted by a two-thirds vote to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the congregation will be conclusively presumed to be an independent or non-Lutheran church.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of the ELCA, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.
- g. This congregation shall abide by these covenants by and among the three expressions of this church:
 - 1) Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., shall be required to receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - 2) Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - 3) Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05, to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- h. If this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above, another special meeting to consider termination of

relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of *C6.05. and may begin no sooner than six months after that second meeting.

- *C6.06. If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.
- *C6.07. If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

Chapter 7. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- *C7.01. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *C7.02. If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.
- *C7.03. If two-thirds of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Southeastern Synod.
- *C7.04. If two-thirds of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body and have followed the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05, title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those

members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- C7.05. Notwithstanding the provisions of *C7.02. and *C.7.03. above, where this congregation has received property from the synod pursuant to a deed or other instrument containing restrictions under provision 9.71.a. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this congregation accepts such restrictions and:
- a. Shall not transfer, encumber, mortgage, or in any way burden or impair any right, title, or interest in the property without prior approval of the Synod Council.
 - b. Shall—upon written demand by the Synod Council, pursuant to †§13.23. of the constitution of The Southeastern Synod - reconvey and transfer all right, title, and interest in the property to the synod.

Chapter 8. MEMBERSHIP

- *C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and its bylaws.
- *C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:
- a. **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
 - b. **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
 - c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
 - d. **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other [ELCA] [Lutheran] [Christian] congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. These individuals have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights or other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

- e. ***Seasonal*** members are voting members of other ELCA congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:
- 1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;
 - 2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;
 - 3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with the ELCA;
 - 4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;
 - 5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and
 - 6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.

*C8.03. All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.

*C8.04. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. Make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. Live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. Support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

*C8.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. Death;
- b. Resignation;
- c. Transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action in accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 20.41. and the accompanying bylaws; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity_in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER

- *C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a meeting regularly called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod

- *C9.02. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

- *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
 - a. Every Minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 1) Preach the Word;
 - 2) Administer the sacraments;
 - 3) Conduct public worship;
 - 4) Provide pastoral care; and
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

 - b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) Offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) relate to all schools and organizations of this congregation;
 - 3) Install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 4) With the council, administer discipline; and
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of the southeastern Synod of the ELCA.

- *C9.04 The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.05. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability, or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months ;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
 - b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the congregation council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
 - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
 - e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
 - f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- *C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.
- *C9.07. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served.
- *C9.08. This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- *C9.09. When a Pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.
- *C9.11. With the approval of the Bishop of the Synod, the congregation may depart from C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the Bishop or a designated representative of the Bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of C9.05.a.
- *C9.12. The Pastor of this congregation:
- a. shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation;
 - b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod; And
 - c. shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor, shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- *C9.13. The Pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the Bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- *C9.14. The parochial records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of the congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another field of labor or the granting by the synod of retired status to the pastor.
- C9.15. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synodical bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between the congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synodical bishop and approved by the congregation.
- *C9.21. Authority to call a minister of Word and Service shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation][the Congregation Council] to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.

- *C9.22. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a deacon of this congregation.
- *C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
 - b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
 - c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
 - d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
 - e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
 - f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
 - g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
 - h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
 - i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.
- *C9.24. The specific duties of the deacon, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the deacon shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.25. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the deacon, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the ministry of Word and Service effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon;
 - 5) suspension of the deacon through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the deacon from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.
 - b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office of minister of

Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or

2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of this congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.

c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the deacon to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of this congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the deacon and then to this congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the deacon's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by this congregation and by the deacon, if appropriate. If the deacon and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.

e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the deacon's call, this congregation may dismiss the deacon only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

*C9.26. The deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

a. installation in another field of labor, or

b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.

*C9.27. When a deacon is called to serve in company with another rostered minister or other rostered ministers, the privileges and responsibilities of each rostered minister

shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the rostered ministers, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

- *C9.28. With the approval of the bishop of the synod, this congregation may depart from *C9.25.a. and call a deacon for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the deacon and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of *C9.25.a.
- *C9.29. The deacon shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the deacon shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- *C9.31. The deacon(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Chapter 10. CONGREGATION MEETING

- C10.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.
- C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the senior pastor, the Congregation Council, or the President of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of ten percent of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synodical bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.
- C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.
- C10.04. Those voting members who shall be present at a properly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C10.06. All actions approved by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.

C10.07. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

Chapter 11. OFFICERS

- C11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
 - b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
 - c. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Congregation Council and shall be voting members of the Congregation Council
 - d. If the Congregation Council elects its officers, the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. [If the treasurer is not selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council, the treasurer shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.]
- C11.02. The officers shall be elected by the Congregational Council by written ballot and shall serve for one year. Their terms shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st.
- C11.03. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Chapter 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and five (5) members of the congregation at least one of whom shall be a youth and one of whom shall be a young adult. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt

procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

- C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected at the legally called Annual Meeting of the congregation. Their term of office shall be for two (2) years, with the term of office beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship on a Sunday prior to the date they assume office.
- C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregational Council be declared vacant, the Congregational Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.
- C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:
- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
 - b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
 - c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
 - d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered ministers(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
 - e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
 - f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
 - g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
 - h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.
- C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.
- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of directors of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of Tennessee, except as otherwise provided herein.
 - b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.
 - c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$2,500 for items not included in the budget.
 - d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$2,500 in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.
 - e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.
 - f. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.
- C12.06 The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution, and its bylaws and the continuing resolutions are carried out.
- C12.07 The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.

- C12.08. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the staff of this congregation. Nothing in this provision shall be deemed to affect the congregation's responsibility for the call, terms of call, or termination of call of any employees who are on a roster of this church.
- C12.09. The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.
- C12.11. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor(s) or the president, and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.
- C12.12. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the senior pastor or interim pastor, except when the senior pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the senior pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council, following consultation with the synodical bishop.
- C12.13. The Congregation Council and its committees may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, and, to the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

Chapter 13. CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

- C13.01. The Officers of this congregation and the Pastor(s) shall constitute the **Executive Committee**.
- C13.02. A **Nominating Committee** of three voting members of this congregation, one of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.
- C13.03. An **Audit Committee** of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office shall be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection.

- C13.04. **Mutual Ministry Committee** (in absence of a mutual ministry committee, their duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) may be appointed jointly by the President(s) and the rostered minister(s).
- C13.05. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a **Call Committee** of six voting members shall be elected by this congregation. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.
- C13.06. Other committees of this congregation may be formed as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.
- C13.07. Duties of congregation committees shall be specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions.
- C13.08. The senior pastor of this congregation shall be ex officio a member of all committees and boards of the congregation. The president of this congregation shall be ex officio a member of all committees and boards of the congregation, except the Nominating Committee.

Chapter 14. ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

- C14.01 All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.
- C14.02. Special interest groups other than those of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council and specified in a continuing resolution.

Chapter 15. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

- *C15.01. Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of the congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of the congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary: a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor, b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, c) written referral of the matter by

the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

- *C15.02. The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to C15.01 do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three lay persons and two ministers of Word and Sacrament). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.
- *C15.03. If the consultation panel fails to resolve the matter, that panel shall refer the case in writing, including the written charges and the accused member's reply, to the Committee on Discipline of the synod for a hearing. A copy of the panel's written referral shall be delivered to the vice president of the synod, the Congregation Council, and the accused member(s) at the same time it is sent to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall then select six members from the Committee on Discipline to decide the case, and shall appoint a member of the Synod Council to preside as nonvoting chair. Those six members plus the nonvoting chair comprise the discipline hearing panel for deciding the case. The Congregation Council and the accused member(s) are the parties to the case.
- *C15.04. The discipline hearing panel shall commence and conduct the disciplinary hearing in accordance with the provisions governing discipline of congregation members prescribed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- *C15.05. By the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the discipline hearing panel who are present and voting, one of the following disciplinary sanctions can be imposed:
 - a. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership for a designated period of time;

- b. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership until the pastor and Congregation Council receive evidence, satisfactory to them, of repentance and amendment of life;
 - c. termination of membership in the congregation; or
 - d. termination of membership in the congregation and exclusion from the church property and from all congregation activities.
- *C15.06. The written decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be sent to the vice president of the synod, the accused member(s), and the Congregation Council as required by the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be implemented by the Congregation Council and recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.
- *C15.07. No member of the congregation shall be subject to discipline a second time for offenses that a discipline hearing panel has heard previously and decided pursuant to this chapter.
- *C15.10. ADJUDICATION
- *C15.11. When there is disagreement among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

Chapter 16. AMENDMENTS

- *C16.01. Unless provision *C16.04 is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by any of the voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- *C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01 shall:

- a) Be approved at a legally called Congregation meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting;
 - b) Be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting; and
 - c) Have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.
- * C16.03. Any amendments to this constitution that result from the process provided in *C16.01 and *C16.02 shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.
- *C 16.04. This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

Chapter 17. BYLAWS

- *C17.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.
- *C17.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.
- *C17.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- *C17.04. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

Chapter 18. CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

- *C18.01. The congregation in a legally called meeting or the congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.
- *C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of a meeting of the congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

Chapter 19. INDEMNIFICATION

- *C19.01. Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt provisions providing indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Congregation Council member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this congregation, was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

Chapter 20. PARISH AUTHORIZATION

C20.01. This congregation may unite in partnership with one or more other congregations recognized by the synod named in *C6.01. to form a parish. Except as provided in *C20.02. and *C20.03., a written agreement, developed in consultation with the synod and approved by the voting members of each congregation participating in the parish, shall specify the powers and responsibilities that have been delegated to a Parish Council.

C20.02. Whenever a letter of call is being recommended for extension to an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended to the congregation by the synodical bishop to serve the congregations of a parish, such letter of call shall be first approved by a two-thirds vote at congregational meetings of each of the congregations forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve extending this call, the other congregation(s) in the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish arrangement.

- *C20.03. Any one of the congregations of a parish may terminate the call of a pastor as provided in S14.13.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) in the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish arrangement.

***C20.04. Whenever a parish arrangement is terminated, the call of any rostered person serving that parish is terminated. Should any congregation that formerly was part of the parish arrangement desire to issue a new call to that rostered person, it may do so in accordance with the call process of this church.**

The Bylaws of Celebration Lutheran Church of Mt. Juliet, Inc.

Chapter 1 – 9

No action at this time.

Chapter 10 Congregation Meeting

This Congregation shall conduct an annual meeting prior to the end of each fiscal year. Notice of this meeting shall be given as prescribed in C10.03. All officers, the pastor and standing committee chairs will submit written reports at the annual meeting to the Congregation.

Chapter 11 Officers

- B.11.01. **President.** The President shall chair the executive committee, the Congregation Council, the annual congregation meeting, and specially called meetings of the congregation with vote limited to resolution of tie votes. The President shall be responsible for carrying out the leadership, communications, and duties set forth by the congregation and council as the operational policies, objectives and goals of this congregation. The President shall be responsible for directing and responding to communications within the congregation, with the council, with the pastor, with the Bishop of the synod, and with others who may from time to time inquire or need information. The President shall also fulfill the statutory duties described by law by the state of Tennessee for not-for-profit corporations.
- B.11.02. **Vice President.** The Vice President shall serve on the executive committee. The Vice President shall act as the chair of the Audit Committee with voice but not vote. In the event of the election of a Call Committee, the Vice President shall act as the chair with voice and vote limited to resolution of tie votes within the Call Committee. During the term of the Call Committee, the limitation on successive terms of the Vice President may be suspended by congregational resolution. The Vice President shall assume and be responsible for all the duties of an absent President.
- B.11.03. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Congregation meetings and all Council meetings and report these minutes as appropriate to the congregation, the council, the synod, and the state of Tennessee.
- B.11.04. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial books and records of this congregation, shall report to the Congregation Council at least

monthly, shall report to this congregation at least annually and shall submit the financial books and records to the audit committee for review at least annually.

Chapter 12 **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

- B.12.01. Congregation Council. The terms of the Congregation Council shall be arranged such that one-third of the terms expire each year. No member shall serve more than one consecutive term. A member elected by the Congregation Council to fill a vacated position is eligible to stand for election to the Congregation Council at the next annual meeting of the congregation. At the next annual meeting, vacated positions are filled for the remainder of the original term.

- B.12.02. Congregational Council Representatives. The members of the Congregation Council will serve as liaisons to the standing committees of the congregation. The Executive Committee is responsible for assigning the standing committees to the members.

- B.12.03. Election of Members. To be elected, a member must receive a majority of the votes cast in the election. If insufficient positions are filled on the first ballot, then successive ballots are held using the remaining candidates. If no member is elected on a ballot, then the candidate receiving the least votes is removed from the slate.

- B.12.04. Partial Terms of Service. The partial terms of vacated Congregation Council positions, along with the full terms of Congregation Council, will be filled in the order that the Members are elected, with the longest terms filled first. In the event more than one Member is elected on a ballot, the Member with the most votes is deemed to have been elected first.

Chapter 13. **CONGREGATION COMMITTEES**

- B.13.00. Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint an outgoing Member of the Congregation Council to convene the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present slates of candidates at the annual meeting of the congregation for the Congregation Council and for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee should be creative in soliciting from the congregation names to place on the ballot. While permitted, it is not recommended that immediate family members serve together on the Congregation Council.

- B.13.01 (a) This congregation shall have standing committees. The Chair of the Standing

Committees shall be elected from within the membership of the Standing Committee. The Chair may appoint one or more Vice-Chairs to aid in the operation of the committee. The Congregation Council Representative is permitted but not required to be either a member or the Chair of the committee.

B.13.01 (b) Each standing committee shall be empowered to organize and appoint sub committees. The chairperson of the subcommittee shall be appointed by the standing committee and may not be the chairperson of the standing committee. The standing committee will present to the Congregation Council an appropriate continuing resolution authorizing and empowering each subcommittee.

B.13.02. Parish education shall be a standing committee. Parish education shall have at least one (1) Chairperson.

The Education Committee helps the congregation to be faithful to the biblical calling to teach and learn. It will provide for the learning ministry in the congregation. This program, through the home and the church, will nurture adults, youth, and children in Christian growth. The committee shall be responsible for the supervision of all schools and training programs.

The education committee will supervise the learning ministry program. It will plan into the future to carry out the mission of the congregation. The committee will enlist volunteers to serve and support and encourage them in every way. They will coordinate with the other groups that offer learning ministry to better provide a variety of learning opportunities for the members. The committee will address the following areas:

1. Identify educational needs.
2. Evaluate current programs giving attention to the needs of all ages of members as well as their physical and mental abilities.
3. Inform the congregation about learning ministry opportunities.
4. Select and support program leaders and teachers by providing materials for teaching and training and enlisting support staff.
5. Select resources and curriculum that are Bible-based and theologically sound that promote the church mission.
6. Determine policy. Establishing schedules for programs, preparing job descriptions and approving curricula.
7. Set goals. Plan for change and growth in learning ministries.
8. Develop and administer the budget. Prepare a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year to be presented to the Stewardship Committee in August of each year.
9. Report to council and the congregation. Report monthly to the council and annually to congregation.

B.13.03. Worship shall be a standing committee. Worship shall have at least one (1) chairperson. The Worship Committee shall oversee all the worship programs of the congregation. Worship will consult with the Pastor and other committees as appropriate to review all church worship programs to determine that they comply with Lutheran Theology and this Congregation's mission statement. The Committee will coordinate the church worship calendar and oversee the planning and preparation of all worship services. The committee will interact with the choir, organist, other musicians and approve the selection of the hymns and musical programs. The committee will provide the training and supplies necessary for the active function of the Altar guild, worship assistants, acolytes, ushers, lectors, communion assistants and other congregation worship participants. This committee will report monthly to the Church Council, annually to the congregation, and each August submit to Stewardship a proposal budget for the coming year.

B.13.04. Property shall be a standing committee. Property will have at least one (1) chairperson. This committee is charged with the maintenance, renovation and replacement of all the physical property of this congregation. The committee will call for work volunteers, form work crews, contract for repairs, construction, maintenance and oversee all work projects on Church property. This committee will obtain competitive estimates whenever possible, verify the references of any contractors or services, recommend major expenditures to the Church Council, and prepare a proposed annual budget for submission to Stewardship in August of each year. Property will report monthly to the Church Council and annually to the congregation.

B.13.05. Social Concerns shall be a standing committee. Social Concerns will have at least one (1) chairperson.

The committee for Social Concerns is charged with providing opportunities for fellowship within the congregational community and within the community as a whole and with other churches.

This committee will develop and administer a budget. It will prepare a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year to be presented to the Stewardship Committee in August of each year.

B.13.06. Evangelism shall be a standing committee. Evangelism will have at least one (1) chairperson.

The Evangelism Committee is charged with the outreach program of the Congregation. The Committee will reach out to the community it serves in order to lead others to know God and his Son.

1. Family Activities – sponsor family oriented activities to promote opportunities for families to celebrate and participate.

2. News Releases – Advertising in Newspapers, Telephone advertising and press releases to increase the visibility of the congregation in the community.
3. Visitation – Organize visitation to homes of baptized and confirmed members that are inactive.
4. Mail Campaign – Letters of acknowledgment to visitors of the congregation inviting them to participate.

Develop and administer the budget. Prepare a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year to be presented to the Stewardship Committee in August of each year.

- B.13.07.** Stewardship shall be a standing committee. Stewardship shall have at least one (1) chairperson.

The Stewardship Committee is charged with the finances of the congregation.

It will charge each committee with a budget line to prepare and present a projected budget for the coming fiscal year to be presented to the committee in August of each year.

The Stewardship Committee will then prepare a projected budget for the coming fiscal year to be presented to the Congregation Council in September of each year. Whereupon, the Council will be charged with its approval. After Council approval, the committee shall present the proposed budget in writing thirty days before the annual congregational meeting to all voting members of the congregation in conjunction with the Agenda prepared by the council.

The Treasurer of the congregation is a member of the Stewardship Committee and will transmit payment of accounts held by the church.

The Financial Secretary of the congregation will compile and transmit annually the individual financial records of benevolence to the membership of the congregation.

The Stewardship Committee will annually, or as the financial needs of the congregation change, present stewardship programs or drives.

- B.13.08** Youth ministries shall be a standing committee. Youth ministries shall have at least one (1) chairperson.

The Youth Ministries Committee is charged with the development, leadership and outreach of youth programs both within and without the Congregation for the purpose of supplementing and reaching beyond Parish Education into community, school and social missions for youth.

- B.13.09.** If the congregation is operating a Day School, then the Day School shall have a standing committee. Day School shall have at least one (1) chairperson.

The committee is charged with:

1. Making recommendations to the church on all matters pertaining to the tuition, budget requirements, salaries, personnel, and other needs.
2. Developing and monitoring an annual operating budget.
3. Determining policies and procedures for operating and administering the program with the approval of the Congregational Council.
4. Enlisting personnel to direct and teach in the program.
5. Seeing that the program complies with legal and licensing requirements.
6. Organizing efforts to involve church members and parents.
7. Directing a public relations effort to inform church members and the public in general about program activities.
8. Reviewing reports and records to insure a proper operation.
9. Coordinating the work with other committees and groups in managing the activities and affairs of the program.
10. Reporting monthly to the church council, annually to the congregation, and each December submitting a copy of their fiscal operating budget for inclusion in the Congregational Annual Report.

Chapter 14

ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

- B.14.01.** Organizations within this congregation who represent themselves as affiliated in any manner with this congregation shall have the authority of a continuing resolution, by this congregation at the annual meeting. Any activity, activities or public statements of position or purpose by organizations within this congregation which do not conform to Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Chapter 4 or Chapter 6 of the Constitution may lead to the revocation of the continuing resolution and dissociation of this congregation with the organization.

Chapter 15 – 18

No action at this time.

The Continuing Resolutions of Celebration Lutheran Church of Mt. Juliet, Inc.

Chapter 1 – 10

No action at this time.

Chapter 11

OFFICERS

- CR.11.01. The officers of this congregation shall serve as an executive committee. The executive committee shall be the President(s), Vice President(s), Secretary and Treasurer. The executive committee shall conduct the routine business of this congregation on a day to day basis and shall make the determination of what matters need to be raised to the level of Congregational Council approval or notice. The executive committee may appoint members of the Council of Trustees to serve out unexpired terms of vacated officer or council positions until elections may be held.
- CR.11.02. The present president of this congregation and all past presidents who have maintained active membership in this congregation shall be called the Council of Trustees. In the event of vacancies on the Congregational Council, matters of policy or matters of discretion within this congregation, the Council of Trustees shall make themselves available to the executive Committee, to the Council, to the Congregation or to the Pastor, for advise and counsel. From time to time the trustees may be called upon to fill out the unexpired terms of officers or members of the council who have resigned, or otherwise are unable to fulfill their responsibilities. During periods of appointment, the Trustee(s) shall serve in the full capacity as appointed. Limits of term and consecutive terms are not applicable to Trustee. Trustees do not vote on the council unless serving in an appointed position having vote.

Chapter 12

No action at this time.

Chapter 13

CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

- CR.13.01. The Boys Scout of America, Troop 911, shall be a sponsored organization of this Congregation. The congregation may charter said organization, and shall as it may define from time to time further sponsor this organization. Boy Scout Troop 911 shall be accountable to the Property Committee as a user of the Church Facility.
- CR.13.02. The Girl Scouts of America are approved users of the property of this congregation. They shall be accountable to the Property Committee as a user of the Church Facility.
- CR.13.03. Alcoholics Anonymous are approved users of the property of this congregation. Alcoholics Anonymous shall be accountable to the Property Committee as a user of the Church Facility.
- CR.13.04. The Preschool Program shall be accountable to the Parish Education Committee as an educational program of the Congregation. The Preschool Committee shall be appointed by the Parish Education Committee and shall include not less than one (1) of the Parish Education Council representatives. The chair of the preschool committee may be a Council representative and may limit her participation to the preschool program.

Chapter 14

ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

- CR.14.01. The youth of this Congregation may organize and conduct youth functions within the parameters of this Congregation. They may elect and send a youth representative to the Congregation Council who will upon such election and designation will have voice, but not vote.
- CR.14.02. The men of this Congregation may organize and conduct men's functions within the parameters of this Congregation. They may elect and send a men's representative to the Congregation Council who will upon such election and designation will have voice, but not vote.
- CR.14.03. The women of the Congregation may organize and conduct women functions within the parameters of this Congregation. They may elect and send a women representative to the Congregation Council who will upon such election and designation will have voice, but not vote.
- CR.14.04. The married adults of this Congregation may organize and conduct married adults functions within the parameters of this Congregation. They may elect and send a married adult representative to the Congregation Council who will upon such election and designation will have voice, but not vote.
- CR.14.05. The unmarried adults of this Congregation may organize and conduct unmarried adults functions within the parameters of this Congregation. They may elect and send a unmarried adults representative to the

Congregation Council who will upon such election and designation will have voice, but not vote.

CR.14.06. The adults of this Congregation may organize and conduct adult functions within the parameters of this Congregation. They may elect and send an adult representative to the Congregation Council who will upon such election and designation have voice, but not vote.

Chapters 15 – 18

No action at this time.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

VISION STATEMENT

[Adopted July 14, 2002]

Jesus' Vision for All of Us

CELEBRATE the living presence of God's love so that it will be on earth as it is in heaven!

MISSION STATEMENT

[Adopted July 14, 2002]

God's Mission for Celebration

God has freely given us love and acceptance; therefore, *CELEBRATION* thankfully exists to foster:

- + **Health** – God heals wounds and makes us whole through forgiveness and community.
- + **Growth** – God's grace and our faith at work make us grow in spirit, mind and body.
- + **Action** – God makes disciples and builds justice and kindness through our humble service to all peoples.

CORE VALUES

[Adopted July 14, 2002]

As we live out God's mission, we value:

The Promise of Eternal Life – John 3:16 “God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have **eternal life** and never really die.” Contemporary English Version

The Power of Love – 1 John 4:16-18 “So have we come to know and trust the **love** God has for us. God is **love**, and the one whose life is lived in **love** does, in fact, live in God, and God does, in fact, live in him. So our **love** for him grows more and more, filling us with complete confidence for the day when he shall judge all people—for we realize that our life in this world is actually his life lived in us. **Love** contains no fear—indeed fully-developed **love** expels every particle of fear, for fear always contains some of the torture of feeling guilty. The one who lives in fear has not yet had his **love** perfected.” J.B. Phillips Translation

All People – Matthew 28:19-20 “Go, then, to **all peoples** everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” Good News Bible

Diversity – Galatians 3:28 “Gone is the distinction between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female—you are **all one** in Christ Jesus.” J.B. Phillips Translation

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 “All of you are **Christ's body**, and each one is a part of it. In the church God has put all in place: in the first place **apostles**, in the second place **prophets**, and in the third place **teachers**; then those who perform **miracles**, followed by those who are given the

power to **heal** or to **help** others or to direct them or to **speak** in strange tongues.” Good News Bible

Genuine Community – Romans 12:9-18 “**Be sincere** in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good. **Love** each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do yourself. **Never give up**. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and **serve** the Lord. Let your hope make you glad. **Be patient** in time of trouble and never stop praying. **Take care** of God’s needy people and **welcome** strangers into your home. Ask God to **bless** everyone who mistreats you. Ask him to bless them and not to curse them. When others are happy, **be happy** with them, and when they are sad, **be sad**. **Be friendly** with everyone. Don’t be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. **Make friends** with ordinary people. Don’t mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the **respect** of others, and do your best to live at **peace** with everyone.” Contemporary English Version

Children and Families – Mark 10:13-16 “People were bringing **little children** to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the **little children** come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a **little child** will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.” New Revised Standard Version

Worship and Music – Colossians 3:16-17 “Let Christ’s message in all of its richness live in your **hearts**. Teach and instruct one another with all **wisdom**. **Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs; sing** to God with **thanksgiving** in your hearts. Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you **give thanks** through him to God the Father.” Good News Bible

Peace – John 14:27 “I give you **peace**, the kind of **peace that only I can give**. It isn’t like the peace that this world can give. So don’t be worried or afraid.” Contemporary English Version